


**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2**

DATE: August 7, 2013

SUBJECT: PCB Inspection: Public School 333 – The Museum School
888 Rev. James A. Polite Avenue
Bronx, New York 10459

FROM: James S. Haklar, Ph.D. 
Environmental Engineer, Toxics Section
Pesticides & Toxic Substances Branch

TO: Susan Schulz, Chief
Toxics Section

On August 1, 2013, a Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) inspection was performed at the above-referenced school. The purpose of the inspection was to observe the removal and disposal of PCB ballasts and associated fluorescent light fixtures by Abax, Inc. (Abax), an asbestos abatement contractor. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began the inspection by holding an opening conference with the following individuals:

- Abdi Zarrabi, Industrial Hygienist C, New York City School Construction Authority (SCA)
- Latif Giwa, SCA
- Andre Palanzuela, Environmental Project Manager, Abax
- George Gomez, Site Supervisor, Abax

Also present were Dennis Santella and Emmet Keveney of EPA Region 2's Office of the Regional Administrator. EPA presented credentials and issued a Notice of Inspection (see Attachment 1).

Background

Public School 333 is housed in a five-story brick building built in 1920. An attached brick annex was constructed in the 1930's. The school has an enrollment of 436 and serves students from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade as well as special education. The school's ventilation system consists of roof fans that exhaust air from the classrooms, and there are fans in the basement that provide both forced air for heating and also exhaust the air from the gym, auditorium and halls.

The facility is one of approximately 105 schools in which the SCA (during the summer of 2013) is performing school-wide replacement of existing PCB fluorescent light ballasts and fixtures. At each school, an SCA industrial hygienist, along with an independent consultant, oversee the lighting replacement activities.

Inspection Details

The SCA explained that there were several projects being performed at the school. One project is the school-wide replacement of fluorescent lighting. Another project involves the installation of flood control measures (subsurface water collection and conveyance structures). Masonry work is also being performed that includes the removal and resetting of windows prone to leakage. The SCA and contractor representatives explained that the windows had been installed within the prior ten years, and that caulk associated with the windows was tested and did not contain PCBs.

At the time of the inspection approximately 75 to 80 percent of the lighting replacement project had been completed. Daily ballast tally sheets show the following information:

Date	Number of Non-PCB Ballasts Removed	Number of Non-Leaking PCB Ballasts Removed	Number of Leaking PCB Ballasts Removed
7/24/13	0	87	12
7/25/13	0	87	3
7/26/13	0	77	1
7/29/13	0	136	0
7/30/13	67 + 39 = 106	48 + 69 = 117	0
TOTAL	106	504	16

Additionally, one stained fixture had been found to date.

EPA inspected the PCB waste storage area. The poly-lined, contained area was secured and isolated from the other work areas and the exterior was marked with the PCB mark (M_L). Closed, marked drums of ballasts were present in the storage area, as well as the stained fixture (the fixture was wrapped in ploy and marked). The storage area also held the old fluorescent light bulbs awaiting disposal.

All ballasts (PCB, non-PCB, leaking and non-leaking) and fixtures with staining are being disposed of by Clean Earth of North Jersey, Inc. (Clean Earth). Asbestos-containing material (ACM) is also being disposed of by Clean Earth. Fixtures that are neither stained nor considered ACM are to be disposed of at the Southern Alleghenies Landfill in Davidsville, Pennsylvania.¹

¹ Abax intended to request an approval from SCA to use Veolia ES Technical Services LLC, for various disposal activities. Please see Attachment 2.

Conclusion

After observing the storage area, EPA concluded the inspection with a discussion of the Agency's observations.

Attachment

1. Notice of Inspection
2. SCA Correspondence

ATTACHMENT 1

Notice of Inspection



United States Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460
Toxic Substances Control Act
NOTICE OF INSPECTION

Form Approved
OMB No. 2070-0007
Approval Expires 10-31-92

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response. This estimate includes time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the needed data, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information to the Chief, Information Policy Branch (PM-223), US Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503, marked ATTENTION: Desk Officer for EPA.

1. Investigation Identification		2. Time	3. Firm Name
Date 8/11/13	Inspector No. F13724	Daily Seq. No. 1	9:30
4. Inspector Address U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION II PESTICIDES & TOXIC SUBSTANCES BRANCH-MS-105 2890 WOODBRIDGE AVE. - BLDG 10 EDISON, NEW JERSEY 08837-3679			5. Firm Name PS 333 - THE MUSEUM SCHOOL 888 REV. J A POLITE AVE. BRONX, NY 10459

REASON FOR INSPECTION

Under the authority of Section 11 of the Toxic Substances Control Act:

☒ For the purpose of inspecting (including taking samples, photographs, statements, and other inspection activities) an establishment, facility, or other premises in which chemical substances or mixtures or articles containing same are manufactured, processed or stored, or held before or after their distribution in commerce (including records, files, papers, processes, controls, and facilities) and any conveyance being used to transport chemical substances, mixtures, or articles containing same in connection with their distribution in commerce (including records, files, papers, processes, controls, and facilities) bearing on whether the requirements of the Act applicable to the chemical substances, mixtures, or articles within or associated with such premises or conveyance have been complied with.

☐ In addition, this inspection extends to (Check appropriate blocks):

☐ A. Financial data

☐ D. Personnel data

☐ B. Sales data

☐ E. Research data

☐ C. Pricing data

The nature and extent of inspection of such data specified in A through E above is as follows:

Certification

I certify that the statements I have made on this form and all attachments thereto are true, accurate, and complete. I acknowledge that any knowingly false or misleading statement may be punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under applicable law.

Inspector Signature <i>James S. Haklar</i>		Recipient Signature <i>Abd. Zarrah</i>	
Name JAMES S. HAKLAR		Name Abd. Zarrah	
Title ENVI ENGR.	Date Signed	Title Industrial Hygienist	Date Signed 8/11/13

ATTACHMENT 2

SCA Correspondence

Haklar, James

From: ZARRABI, ABDI [AZARRABI@NYCSCA.ORG]
Sent: Monday, August 05, 2013 3:19 PM
To: Haklar, James
Cc: LEMPERT, ALEX; KONDILIS, MILTON; ZARRABI, ABDI
Subject: FW: PS 333@60 in the Bronx

Dear James:

It was nice meeting with you and your partners at PS 333-Bronx. You asked me to verify the building's ventilation system and the disposal sites for the PCB and asbestos waste. I contacted Mr. Amadu, who is the deputy director of the facility regarding the building's ventilation system and Mr. Palenzuela who is the project manager for the abatement contractor to verify the disposal sites. The information they provide me (see below) confirm the information you collected during our meeting at the site.

Please feel free to contact me with any further questions. I am looking forward to working with you on other project.

Yours truly,

Abdi Zarrabi, NYC SCA, IH-C.

From: Andres Palenzuela [<mailto:apalenzuela@abax-inc.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 05, 2013 12:31 PM
To: ZARRABI, ABDI
Cc: 'John Brandquist'
Subject: EPA

Abdi;

Please be advised of the following regarding Mr. Haklar's request for confirmation of the following information:

Could you also please confirm that:

1) all ballasts (PCB, non-PCB, leaking, non-leaking) and fixtures with staining are being disposed of by Clean Earth of North Jersey, Inc.;

As per our Plan we have listed Clean Earth of North Jersey as our Disposal Facility, we wish to reserve the right to also possibly utilize the following Disposal Facility:

Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC
90 Pleasant Street
West Bridgewater, MA 02379

2) material considered ACM is also being disposed of by Clean Earth; and

As per our Plan we have listed Clean Earth of North Jersey as our Disposal Facility, we wish to reserve the right to also possibly utilize the following Disposal Facility:

Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC
90 Pleasant Street
West Bridgewater, MA 02379

3) fixtures that are neither stained nor considered ACM are being disposed of at the Southern Alleghenies Landfill in Pennsylvania

As per our Plan we have listed the Southern Alleghenies Landfill in Pennsylvania, this is confirmed.

Abax Inc. will be submitting for approval by the SCA Veolia ES Technical Services LLC, for possible use for this project, unless approved by the Authority all waste will be disposed of in accordance with our Management Plan.

I hope this clarifies and confirms the information reviewed by Mr. Haklar and the other representative's of the EPA. We appreciated everyone's input and comments graciously provided during Thursday's site visit.

We hope all was in order and we met expectations and the site was to everyone's satisfaction. Please contact me should you require any additional information.

Andres J. Palenzuela

Asbestos Project Designer
Environmental Manager

From: Amedu Davis [<mailto:DAmedu@schools.nyc.gov>]
Sent: Saturday, August 03, 2013 7:34 PM
To: ZARRABI, ABDI; apalenzuela@abax-inc.com
Cc: LEMPERT, ALEX; KONDILIS, MILTON
Subject: Re: PS 333 in the Bronx

Your ventilation writeup is correct

Davis J Amedu
Deputy Director
Bronx

From: ZARRABI, ABDI [<mailto:AZARRABI@NYCSCA.ORG>]
Sent: Friday, August 02, 2013 04:02 PM
To: Amedu Davis; 'apalenzuela@abax-inc.com' <apalenzuela@abax-inc.com>
Cc: Lempert Alex; KONDILIS, MILTON (SCA)
Subject: FW: PS 333 in the Bronx

Mr. Amedu:

Could you please verifying the type of ventilation building have. Marked red below. Thanks

Mr. Palenzuela:

Please verifying the information regarding PCB and ACM waist mentioned below marked green are correct. Thanks

From: Haklar, James [mailto:Haklar.James@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 02, 2013 1:24 PM
To: ZARRABI, ABDI
Cc: LEMPert, ALEX
Subject: PS 333 in the Bronx

Hello Abdi,

Thank you for escorting Dennis Santella, Emmet Keveney and myself though PS 333 yesterday. You were very helpful in responding to our questions regarding the lighting replacement at that school.

I am now writing up my inspection report and I would just like to confirm a few items with you. Could you please confirm that, with regard to ventilation at the school, the roof fans exhaust air from the classrooms, and that fans in the basement provide both forced air for heating and also exhaust the air from the gym, auditorium and halls.

Could you also please confirm that 1) all ballasts (PCB, non-PCB, leaking, non-leaking) and fixtures with staining are being disposed of by Clean Earth of North Jersey, Inc.; 2) material considered ACM is also being disposed of by Clean Earth; and 3) fixtures that are neither stained nor considered ACM are being disposed of at the Southern Alleghenies Landfill in Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your continued assistance, and if you have any questions please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Haklar

James S. Haklar, Ph.D.
Sr. PCB Disposal Specialist
Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance

(732) 906-6817